

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-ninth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2010

House Engrossed  
**FILED**  
**KEN BENNETT**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**

## **HOUSE RESOLUTION 2008**

A RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF RABBI ALBERT PLOTKIN.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Rabbi Albert Plotkin, a beloved leader of Phoenix's Jewish and  
2 interfaith communities for more than five decades, died on February 3, 2010  
3 at the age of eighty-nine.

4 The son of Sam and Sophie Plotkin, Albert Plotkin was born and raised  
5 in South Bend, Indiana. As a college student at Notre Dame University, he  
6 frequently attended and assisted South Bend's synagogue, and during this time  
7 he made the decision to pursue his religious endeavors. After graduating  
8 from Notre Dame magna cum laude in 1942, he attended Hebrew Union College in  
9 Cincinnati and was ordained in 1948.

10 Rabbi Plotkin moved to Seattle to become an assistant rabbi, and it was  
11 here that he met and married the love of his life, Sylvia, in 1949. He went  
12 on to serve as assistant rabbi at Temple Dehirsch in Spokane before moving to  
13 Phoenix to become rabbi at Temple Beth Israel in 1955. At the time, only 400  
14 Jewish families attended the synagogue but that number quickly grew to 1600.  
15 Rabbi Plotkin was instrumental in the phenomenal growth and visibility of the  
16 Valley's Jewish community over the years. He also worked tirelessly to  
17 promote tolerance, the civil rights movement and understanding through his  
18 involvement in such worthwhile organizations as the Jewish Federation of  
19 Greater Phoenix, the Greater Phoenix Ecumenical Council, the YMCA, the Urban  
20 League, the NAACP, the Interfaith Council, the Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary  
21 in Phoenix, Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs, the North Phoenix Corporate  
22 Ministry and the National Council of Christians and Jews. Rabbi Plotkin also  
23 served on the boards of the Jewish Family and Children's Services, the  
24 Council of Zionist Affairs, Anytown Arizona, Hebrew Union College, Arizona  
25 Council of Planned Parenthood, the Arizona Town Hall, KAET, the Phoenix  
26 Symphony, the Arizona Opera, the National Rabbinic Cabinet of Israel Bonds  
27 and the National Rabbinic Council of the United Jewish Appeal. Over the  
28 years, he also served in a leadership capacity with the Arizona Rabbinical  
29 Association, Western Association of Reform Rabbis, the Central Conference of  
30 American Rabbis, the United Jewish Welfare Fund, the Arizona Congress of  
31 Parents and Teachers, the United Way, the American Red Cross, the Camp Fire  
32 Girls of America and numerous other state and local committees, commissions  
33 and councils.

34 Diligent in his religious studies, Rabbi Plotkin helped develop the  
35 Jewish Studies Program at Arizona State University, where he also taught  
36 courses, and was instrumental in the establishment of the first synagogue in  
37 Sedona. He was chairman and founder of the Phoenix Weizmann Institute of  
38 Science, and served as chaplain of the Arizona Senate in 1956, as chaplain at  
39 Phoenix Veterans Hospital and as rabbi-in-residence at All Saints Episcopal  
40 Church, and volunteered each Christmas day to serve meals and sing carols to  
41 homeless individuals at St. Vincent de Paul Society's dining room. Rabbi  
42 Plotkin worked diligently throughout his lifetime to foster ecumenical  
43 understanding and goodwill among people of all faiths, and his efforts earned  
44 him the respect and admiration of all who had the privilege of knowing him  
45 over the years.

1 Rabbi Plotkin's tremendous efforts earned numerous awards and honors  
2 throughout his lifetime, including an honorary doctor of divinity degree from  
3 Hebrew Union College in 1973, the 1998 Matthes Award from the North Phoenix  
4 Corporate Ministry, the Plotkin Chair of Judaic Studies at Arizona State  
5 University in 1988, an honorary degree from Arizona State University in 1989  
6 and Notre Dame's Distinguished Alumni Award. He was also named as Man of the  
7 Year City of Hope, 1953 Man of the Year by the Spokane Junior Chamber of  
8 Commerce, 1954 Man of the State of Washington and the St. Vincent de Paul  
9 Society's Man of the Year in 1998.

10 Rabbi Plotkin's tremendous passion for others and zest for life was  
11 evident in all he did, whether pursuing his lifelong love of music and  
12 theater, writing books or counseling or helping people. He will be greatly  
13 missed by his surviving daughter, Janis, his colleagues and the congregation  
14 at Temple Beth Israel, and his many friends in the Greater Phoenix community.  
15 Therefore

16 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:

17 That the Members of the House of Representatives express regret at the  
18 death of Rabbi Albert Plotkin and extend their deepest sympathies to his  
19 surviving family members.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE APRIL 28, 2010.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 28, 2010.